

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of December 13 2007
Amesbury Health Center**

The December 13th meeting was cancelled due to snow. The next scheduled meeting is January 17th, 2008.

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of November 8 2007
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Rob Desmarais, Bruce Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Karen Crago-Slater and John Vigliotti

The meeting began at 6:35 PM. The minutes from October 11, 2007 were approved with no changes required (Cindy 1st, Bruce 2nd).

Rob provided a summary of planned waterways projects and the potential funding sources. The weir on the Powow River is scheduled to be replaced as part of the water treatment plant upgrade in 2010. Rob explained the different repair alternatives and also identified that the safe yield of the river is 4.5 mgd and the permitted withdrawal for the WTP is 1.5mgd (1.2mgd surface water and 0.3mgd well water). Rob also discussed how the town has pursued water service to other communities. This has not proceeded and the only interconnection exists with Salisbury for emergency purposes. The Arch Brook Outlet is intended to be repaired using free cash from this year's fiscal budget. The work is anticipated to cost approximately \$65k and town staff will likely complete the work, which consists of replacing the concrete structure and installing a new gate. In addition, the Town has installed new water level gauges at all dams and control structures. These will be helpful in managing water flow and levels during flooding events. The displaced blocks at the Lake Gardner Dam will receive 75% funding from FEMA. Park Pond drainage improvements are now set to move forward and will be fully funded using Chapter 90, State roadway improvement funds.

Rob offered to provide matching funds (up to \$8k) for a grant if the Commission performed the grant writing. Bruce offered to take on this assignment with the help of Rob. The funding will be used to re-assess weed growth and make appropriate recommendations for controlling them.

The sign from the Department of Conservation and Recreation have not been placed at the Merrimac River boat launch. Rob has them in his office.

Watershed Awareness Program

The assessor office has the ability to provide property owner information for the watershed protection zones (Zone A and B). The commission will seek this information for future mailing of surface water protection literature. Rob has between \$200 and \$1500 to assist in this mailing.

Watershed Management Plan

The 1999 Watershed Management Plan was previously distributed and the Commission members were asked to bring comments to the December meeting. It was agreed that the Commission will pursue an update of this document for the primary reason of extending the coverage down to the Merrimac River, from the Powow River Weir. Updating this document will require a significant notification effort since a new Order of Conditions will be required. Certified notification is required for all abutters of the waterways affected by this document.

Watershed Overlay District

Rob suggested that the commission should consider establishing a new district, from Lake Gardner Dam to the Merrimac River, rather than extending the existing districts through downtown. This effort could be included in the current effort to establish a stormwater ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 (Bruce 1st, Karen 2nd). The next Commission meeting will be on December 13th, 2007.

Town of Amesbury

Lakes and Waterways Commission

Meeting of October 11 2007

Amesbury Health Center

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Jim Babbin, Bruce, Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Karen Crago-Slater and Nathan Gray

The meeting began at 6:35 PM.

Unfortunately, Jim Babbin had to resign from this Commission, since he is a paid employee of the town. Karen Crago-Slater was voted in as a full-member. Greg will send a notice to the Mayor that the Commission will need another associate.

The minutes from September 13, 2007 was approved (Bruce 1st, Karen 2nd) as amended.

Christine Tabak, Executive Director of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, emailed Greg in regards to correspondence she had with a NH resident who was concerned about the water level drop on the Powow River. The resident apparently is concerned with the river downstream from Trickling Falls. The water level at this point is under NH's control. Greg will follow-up with Ms. Tabak.

The Commission reviewed the September 24th letter from Dayle Bell, the Permit Coordinator from Community and Economic Development, inviting members to upcoming workshops.

-November 15th: Understanding the Wetlands Protection Act and Regulations” will be attended by Bruce and Karen.

-November 29th: “Open Meeting Law etc.” will be attended by Greg.

Cindy will drive by the Merrimac River boat launch and the Lake Attitash boat launch to verify that the signs from the Department of Conservation and Recreation are in place. These were for weed watching control.

There are still two waterways that need to be written up for our website. Bruce will complete the information for the Powow and Greg will complete the one for Clark's Pond.

A Watershed Awareness Program was discussed. Greg distributed the Watershed Management Plan for the town updated in May of 1999. All Commission members should review this document and Section XII (Wetlands and Floodplain protection district) and provide comments. Jim will email the Watershed Overlay District Map and Section XIV, Water Resources Protection District for our review. Possibilities for upcoming support of this program would be 1) setting up a table at the Woodsom Farm festival next year for educating the town's residents, 2) education activities at our schools, 3) Weed watcher events at the boat launch on the Merrimac River and Lake Attitash and 4) Mailing to the residents within the Watershed.

The large of amount of plant growth on the Tuxbury Pond and Meadowbrook should be discussed in relationship to the Watershed Management Plan, in regards to controlling weeds.

Nothing appeared within the Mayor's Capital Improvement Plan for maintaining/upgrading the water control structures for the lakes and rivers (dams) or water quality improvements for our waterbodies. The Commission will work with Rob Desmarais to see what plans may be upcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 (Cindy 1st, Bruce 2nd). The next Commission meeting will be on November 8th, 2007.

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 13 September 2007
Amesbury Health Center**

Present: Greg Roy, Jim Babbin, Cindy Roberts and Karen Crago-Slater

The meeting began at 6:35 PM.

The minutes from July 12th was approved (Jim 1st, Cindy 2nd) as written.

Alphonse Sevigny attended the meeting to discuss the status of an erosion problem that is occurring on his property caused by a downstream bridge issue. The bridge on the Powow River, downstream from the lake Gardner Dam, is maintained by the

Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD). After the bridge was widened, a sandbar developed that has changed the flow of the river causing damage on his personal property. The MHD chief engineer, David Anderson, has assigned a hydraulic engineer to review the bridge/river situation. Rob Desmarais, Amesbury's town engineer, has been working with Mr. Sevigny on the issue. At this point, Mr. Sevigny said that there isn't anything for the Commission to do.

Greg wrote a Lakes and Waterways annual report for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 that was submitted to the Mayor. It is available on our website. Greg also met with the Mayor and stressed the Commission's accomplishments, discussed the excise tax topic and future possibilities for the Commission. The Mayor would like a project list.

The Commission reviewed the status of the Department of Conservation and Recreation signs that have been posted on entrances to the Amesbury lakes and waterways. The Commission is going to double check whether all signs have been posted.

New projects were discussed. Protecting the watershed overlay district was pointed out as an important issue that the Commission should begin to address. Reviewing the zoning bylaws and determining the properties that are within the watershed overlay district would be a good start. If a letter can be included, along with other materials on water protection, to the identified homeowners, the Commission can begin to educate and support the water quality of our lakes and waterways. We discussed getting a map of the watershed overlay district. It was agreed that this project and potentially additional projects will be discussed at our next meeting.

A tour of Amesbury's lakes and waterways will be provided to the Commission by Jim Babbin on October 6th from 8-10am. If interested, the meeting spot is the parking lot at Tuxbury Pond.

Greg spoke with Christine Tabak, the executive director of the Merrimack River Watershed Council. They have been sampling the water quality on the Powow River and an article appeared in the Newburyport News inferring pollution within Amesbury. It turns out that the article was misleading. The Council is looking for funding for additional projects. There is a report available on the Powow River Watershed Association website regarding water sampling.

As follow-up to a previous meeting, the town of Amesbury owns the boat that is used by the Harbormaster.

The next Commission meeting will be on October 11, 2007.

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 23 July 2007
Amesbury Health Center**

Attendees: Greg Roy, Bruce Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Jim Babbin, Jay Knapp, John Vigliotti, Mark Sydlowski, Robert Desmaris

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 6:35 PM

The meeting minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved by the commission.

A. Engineer's Update

Rob Desmaris updated the commission on the status of current waterway related issues. The town was able to have a group of volunteers stencil catch basins, which will fulfill the requirements of the Town's Stormwater Permit. Rob was asked to have DPW place weed watcher signs at several locations.

B. Tour of the Amesbury Waterways

- The Commission will schedule a tour of most waterways in September.
- The City Council will be invited to the tour.
- Objective of the tour is to give all an understanding of the Town's waterways

C. Town Boat Ramps: Merrimack River and Lake Attitash

- Ask boaters to check for weeds on props prior to launching boats.
- Ask boaters to check for weeds on props after pulling boats.
- Seeking to avoid transfer of various weeds via propellers.

There is no sign at the Merrimack River ramp focusing on weed transfer.

D. Letter to Larry's Marina regarding upkeep of Town owned ramp.

- The Commission thought the letter was a good idea.
- The Commission wishes to sign a final letter at the August meeting.
- Ask Larry Kelcourse if he would like to join Amesbury's Adopt a Sign program and have it placed at the Town Ramp.

The meeting ended at 8:00 PM.

Next meeting was scheduled August 16th at 6:30 PM, at the Amesbury Health Center.

Meeting minutes provided by Mark Sydlowski

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 31 May 2007
Amesbury Health Center**

Attendees: Greg Roy, Bruce Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Jim Babbins, Jay Knapp, John Vavigliati, Mark Sydlowski.

Guests: Larry and Jim Kelcourse (Larry's Marina, Inc.) Jack Bailey (Amesbury Harbor Master)

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 6:35 PM

The meeting minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved by the commission.

A. Repairs to Harbor Masters boat.

The Amesbury Harbor Master (Jack Bailey) discussed the situation concerning the outstanding invoice from Steve's Boat Shop located in Charlestown, MA incurred while repairs were made to the town's boat. Mr. Bailey provided the commission with a copy of the invoice sent to the town on June 22, 2006. The repairs made to the boat were required, and done in a timely manner.

After the presentation by Mr. Bailey, the commission recommended that the town (Mayor Kezer's Office) pay the invoice as soon as possible. It was also recommended by the commission that the town investigate to see if a claim was filed on the damaged boat, or if a claim could be filed to re-coup the cost of the repairs.

B. Boating fines and Boat Excise Tax.

The commission had questions pertaining to the above topic as follows:

- When fines are paid, where is the money held?
- When boat excise tax is paid, where is the money held?
- The commission felt that 50% of the collected funds should be held in a separate account to fund recommended actions by the Lakes and Waterways Commission.

- The Commission currently believes that the monies collected from boating excise tax is currently located in a single fund that Commission can not access.

C. Town Ramp on Merrimack River

- Could the DPW maintain the Town Ramp?
 - Grass cutting
 - Debris collecting
 - Ramp sweeping
 - Fill holes in ramp with asphalt
 - Fill sides of ramp with asphalt
 - Repair end of ramp with asphalt

D. Weed Situation in all ponds and lakes within Amesbury.

- The weed problem is on going and is not improving.
- Weed Watcher event coming up to help identify what weeds are growing, and what we need to do to stop them.

E. Special Projects

Special projects were briefly discussed towards the end of the meeting. One of the items was improvements to the town boat ramp. These benefits would greatly benefit those residents who use the ramp to launch, and park their vehicle and trailer at the ramp.

- DPW to possibly maintain the site as indicated above.
- New dock or docks to be installed to aid in the launching of a boat.
- Funds for the new dock would possibly come from the boating fines and fees fund.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM.

Next meeting was scheduled July 12th at 6:30 PM, at the Amesbury Health Center.

Meeting minutes provided by Mark Sydlowski

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 26 April 2007
Amesbury Health Center**

Present: Bruce Georgian, Jim Babbin, Cindy Roberts, Nathan Gray, and Jay Knapp

MINUTES:

The meeting began at 6:40 PM

The meeting minutes from March 15, 2007 were reviewed and approved by the Commission.

Although Rob DeDesmarais was not in attendance, Jim and Jay discussed some of the details of the April storm. Jim was involved with releasing the Tuxbury Pond gate and closing off the street at Park Pond. Jay said that it was the highest water level that he's seen on parts of the Merrimack River due to the tidal storm surge.

The planning for the weed watchers meeting is continuing. There has only been minimal response. Cindy will contact Anne Verret-Speck to see if we can promote the meeting through the Amesbury home page. Cindy will also contact some of the invitees to continue recruiting people to attend. Bruce and Cindy will provide some snacks at the meeting.

A town council request was made to review the purchase request for a new boat by the harbormaster. We decided to write a letter suggesting a special meeting to obtain the necessary details to render a recommendation. The Commission has not had any contact with the harbormaster and no details were provided. We should also review the available funding with the boat excise tax fund to determine the feasibility of a purchase and other uses for the fund. [Since this meeting, Greg Roy has decided to invite the harbormaster to our meeting on May 31st, instead of write a letter.]

Bruce and Rob have made no further progress on the stenciling project. Bruce is trying to setup a meeting with the Sparhawk School and Rob to continue to setup the project.

We discussed that the Town Council may not be aware of what the Lakes and Waterways Commission has been doing. It was suggested that we present to the council in the Fall to update them on our current projects. Bruce and Jim volunteered to do the presentation.

Recruiting new members was a topic of discussion. Jim is going to get a list of members and expiration dates to see how things will look over the next year or two.

Bruce brought up the understanding that members have special projects/interests that would be worthwhile to follow up with the group. He is concerned with the goose issues on Lake Gardiner. Cindy mentioned weed control, in regards to zoning A and fertilizer, and E-coli levels on Lake Attitash and Lake Gardiner. She is going to research how zoning A should be protected.

Adjourned at 8:00

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 31st. The June meeting may be replaced with the Weed Watchers event on June 14th.

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 15 March 2007
Amesbury Health Center**

Present: Greg Roy, Bruce Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Nathan Gray, and Rob Desmarais

MINUTES:

The meeting began at 6:35 PM

The meeting minutes from February 8, 2007 were reviewed and approved by the Commission.

Rob Desmarais (Town Engineer) provided an update on current activities. The Town has contracted with a consultant to complete the many requirements of Stormwater Management. Town Council has provided \$125,400 of the \$154,900 required to complete this work.

The Town has developed a \$3 million capital improvements plan which includes several public works projects. Of interest to the Commission is the repair/replacement of the Arch Brook control structure, which is the outlet from Lake Attitash. Repairs will include the installation of a new slide gate to better control flow through this area.

The Engineering Department is sponsoring a tour of the Town's waterways and Water Treatment Facility for the Town Council. The date has not yet been set but the Lakes & Waterways members will also be invited. It was mentioned that Fluoride will again be added to the Town's drinking water.

The Town has been complying with the supplemental environmental project requirements, which includes training for Town staff and development of a Stream Management Plan.

Rob is interested in pursuing more stenciling of storm drains and Bruce has indicated that the Spar Hawk School is willing to participate. Commission volunteers are also needed for this work. Rob also mentioned that he would provide a revised map of the Town's Lakes and Waterways.

Cindy made a request for waterway related brochures that the Town might already have and would like to post them on the L&W web site. Rob will provide them electronically.

Planning for the Weed Watchers meeting is proceeding and the location has been set for Camp Kent. The invite list and invitation will be completed shortly for distribution.

Cindy provided a summary of water quality data collected to date with graphs. She is still pursuing surface water descriptions for posting on the L&W web site. A couple members have yet to complete this assignment.

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting will be on April 26, 2007.

Adjourned at 7:55 PM, Nathan (first) and Cindy (second)

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 8 February 2007
Amesbury Health Center**

Present: Jim Babbin, Greg Roy, Bruce Georgian, and Cindy Roberts

MINUTES:

The meeting began at 6:45 PM

Minutes from several past meetings have not yet been approved since they have not been provided by the secretary. The Commission will attempt to have all minutes reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

Commission member Todd McGrath has tendered his resignation from Lakes and Waterways Commission, effective February 8, 2007. He will submit his resignation letter to the Mayor. His departure leaves the Commission without a secretary and less one full member of the 4 required. In the interim, it has been suggested that secretary duties be rotated between the Commission members. Greg Roy agreed to take minutes for the meeting of this date.

A draft letter was distributed for review which summarizes the outfall screening pilot program which was conducted by the Commission in the fall of 2007. Comments should be submitted as soon as possible. It was felt that additional text is required which describes the Commissions position on the Stormwater Ordinance.

At the January meeting, plans were made for a meeting with the Mayor to obtain guidance on how to proceed with completing the Stormwater Ordinance. This meeting never occurred and the status of completing this assignment remains unclear. This Commission has been overly supportive in trying to help complete this assignment but can no longer be involved. It has been decided that all efforts to date will be passed on to the Engineering Department for completion before the deadline at the beginning of 2008.

Cindy Roberts and Bruce Georgian attended the MACOLAP Annual Winter Workshop on February 4, 2007. This is the state chapter of international lakes and waterways associations. There were many informative talks, handouts and other sources of documentation provided and obtained from this workshop. A link to MACOLAP will be added to the Lakes and Waterways web site. Members attended at their own expense which further documents the need for the Commission to have an annual budget.

Cindy provided a copy of the Commission's charter which all members should review. Cindy also provided a "wish list" of projects for the Commission to consider. These documents should be frequently referred to and modified as progress is made.

The Commission will set up and sponsor a Mass Weed Watchers seminar which will include presentations from State officials. The plan is to have the seminar in June at Camp Kent.

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting will be on March 15, 2007.

Adjourned at 7:45PM, Cindy (first) and Bruce (second)